

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES \$100 MILLION EXPANSION OF MERCK PLANT IN DURHAM

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley today announced that Merck & Co. Inc. plans to invest approximately \$100 million to expand its Durham vaccine manufacturing facility, creating an additional 50 to 60 jobs. The expansion will support the manufacture and global distribution of several of Merck's key vaccines.

"Merck's expansion in Durham further strengthens North Carolina's leadership position in the life sciences industry," said Easley. "This decision shows the effectiveness of the state's top ranked business climate and investments in education."

Headquartered in Whitehouse Station, N.J., Merck is a global pharmaceutical company. In 2004, the company began construction of a \$300 million, 235,000-square-foot facility in Treyburn Corporate Park in Durham. That construction is scheduled to be completed in 2007. The facility, which will employ up to 200 workers, is on schedule to start production before the end of 2008 and fully licensed to begin supplying high quality vaccines to markets around the world in 2009.

The expansion, which will include a sterile processing facility, quality testing labs and high speed packaging line totaling approximately 115,000 square feet, is contingent upon approval of a grant by the Durham County Commission. It is scheduled to begin in 2007 and be completed in 2010.

"This expansion will significantly increase the capabilities of the Durham facility and position the plant to more effectively support Merck's growing global vaccine business," said plant manager John Wagner. "We appreciate the support that has been offered by state and local officials to help bring this investment to North Carolina."

"I am delighted to learn that Merck Pharmaceuticals is planning this significant expansion of its manufacturing facility in northern Durham County," said Ellen Reckhow, Durham County Commission chair. "This major economic development project continues to enhance Durham County's position in the biopharmaceutical industry. We could not be more pleased to conclude this record-setting year with this very good news from Merck."

For more information about Merck & Co., visit www.merck.com. For job opportunities, visit www.merck.com/careers

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